

LEGACIES

FOR FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIAL FUND

SERVICE THROUGH SELF

“My family knew what it meant to serve others,” David E. Johnson expressed. With three generations having served in the military and his two brothers choosing careers in law enforcement, David proudly followed the family tradition and became a police officer.

“I was raised to put others first, work hard, look to God, forgive and to always give back. I am where I am today because of the sacrifices so many others before me chose to make. I am honored to serve in this capacity.”



David E. Johnson

sure all families of fallen heroes have a place to remember and reflect and that the next generation of Americans can learn about their dedication.

Making a difference

Most officers can share accounts of numerous life and death situations they’ve encountered. These dire confrontations take a toll—it can be extremely hard to overcome the stressors of the profession. “For the men and women out there hurting,

reach out for help;* you are not alone, and we need to support each other,” shared David.

David and other officers faced challenging conditions, but they have also witnessed lives saved. Additionally, they often used their own resources to help individuals in need or visit victims in the hospital. “It’s why we do this job—to provide a better society for the next generation,” David explained.

With his inspiring gifts of service now and through his legacy, David is making a difference. Please contact us to learn more about how you can assist NLEOMF in honoring law enforcement officers and making it safer for those who serve.

A place to honor fallen heroes

As a child, David was inspired to improve the community. He remembers hearing of a local deputy sheriff killed in the line of duty. David was thankful to learn about the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial that so fittingly honored the men and women in law enforcement who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Throughout his 20-year career, David has known 27 people whose names have been added to that wall. “Having a place for the families and friends to visit and remember—it’s so important.” David has chosen to leave a legacy gift to NLEOMF to make

*If you or someone you know needs help, visit www.safleo.org to connect with SAFLEO | National Suicide Awareness for Law Enforcement Officers Program.

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SAMPLE BEQUEST LANGUAGE

If you are considering a bequest to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, here is some suggested wording that can be shared with your attorney: "After fulfilling all other specific provisions, I give, devise and bequeath _____% of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate (or \$_____ if a specific amount) to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (tax ID # 52-1382926), currently having offices at 444 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001."

Please contact us for more information and to discuss how you would like your bequest used.



WAYS TO STRUCTURE A BEQUEST

Did you know there are many different ways to provide for those you care about in your estate plan?

Making a gift through your will, called a bequest, is one widely used method that can help you to continue supporting your charitable interests, such as the Memorial Fund, after your lifetime.

The will is an extremely flexible instrument, and there are a number of ways you can use it to make a gift. **Consider giving:**

The "residue"

The "residue" of your estate is what is left over after all other distributions have been made. You can name the Memorial Fund to receive the residue, as this allows you to make a meaningful gift after providing for loved ones. We are happy to be remembered "last" in your will.

A specific amount

Your will can specify a dollar amount to be given. This can make sense if certainty is important to you—if, for example, you want to fund the annual Candlelight Vigil at the Memorial Fund during National Police Week.

Remember, however, that your financial situation may change over time. If you choose to give in this way, it is especially important to keep your will up to date.

An item or asset

Similarly, you can use your will to give an item or asset. As is the case when giving a dollar amount, this allows you to know exactly what you will give. Just be careful not to sell or give away any assets you have designated for others in your will. It's also a good idea to discuss your intentions with the recipient in advance. You don't want to burden them with an asset they don't need or can't use.

A percentage

Giving a percentage of your estate allows you to give proportions rather than specific amounts. Your gifts are automatically "adjusted" as your finances change. Consider this option if you have less specific goals in mind.

In a mixture of ways

You can also combine the above methods in your will. For example, you might specify that certain items go to certain people, then divide whatever remains by percentages among your favorite charities, like the Memorial Fund.

Be sure to discuss the different methods of giving with your attorney or contact us if you would like more information.

If you plan to include the Memorial Fund in your estate plans, please consider letting us know. We'd like to have the chance to thank you for your thoughtfulness.



EXPLORE THE BENEFITS OF A QCD

How much do you know about making qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) through your IRA? Although this probably isn't a new concept for you, there may be some details that you are not aware of. Keep in mind that certain methods of giving are more advantageous in certain circumstances; take the time to figure out what will work best for you.

Why is a QCD a good giving option?

- Giving directly from your IRA—rather than withdrawing these funds—won't increase your adjusted gross income or subject your Social Security income to more taxes.
- Such gifts can count toward all or part of your annual required minimum distribution (RMD). While IRA owners 70½ years or older can make gifts directly to charities from their IRAs, the minimum age for taking RMDs has increased to 73.
- QCD gifts can be especially advantageous for those who do not expect to itemize their deductions and those whose deductions are limited.
- You may make QCD gifts in any amount up to \$100,000 per person this year. Because of recent tax law changes, you may be able to continue to add to an IRA after age 70½. The benefits of a QCD are adjusted for those who also make deductible IRA contributions.

Can I do this with other retirement plan assets?

- The QCD is only possible with an IRA, although you may roll funds from other retirement plans into IRAs in order to take advantage of a QCD.
- Some people choose to simply make charitable gifts with their retirement plan withdrawals—whether they have an IRA, 401(k), 403(b) or other similar arrangements. When doing this, you will recognize income on your tax return, but you can also deduct the amount of your gift.

New opportunities

Recent legislation includes a provision allowing donors to fund a charitable remainder trust or charitable gift annuity with a QCD. The one-time election applies to transfers of up to \$50,000, from which the donor would receive payments of at least 5% annually for life.

The donor and/or the donor's spouse are the only permitted payment recipients, and the remainder trust or gift annuity can be funded only with the QCD. Payments, which must begin within one year of the gift, would be taxed at ordinary income tax rates.

Please contact us or your advisors to learn more about making QCD gifts through your IRA.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT A WILL CAN DO?

Do you have plans in place to care for your loved ones? Have you met with your attorney to create a will? If not, the state in which you live will write one for you, although it might not reflect your personal wishes for the distribution of your assets. If you already have a will, have you reviewed it in the last year?

If you answered “no” to any of the questions above, it would be a good idea to start your planning today because your personal will can do many things that the state’s one-size-fits-all will can’t.

The Memorial Fund has partnered with FreeWill to offer you a free and simple way to prepare a will. Visit www.freewill.com/NLEOMF to use this complimentary tool and start creating your estate plan today.

With a will you can:

- **Name the executor of your choice.** You may want a family member, friend, trust company or a combination of the above to act as the executor of your will. You are also able to waive the bond that might otherwise be required by the probate court.
- **Customize your plans for a loved one with special needs.** The state’s will does not provide more for family members who require

additional help. Your will can direct funds to pass to a special needs trust that preserves other sources of assistance.

- **Make gifts in the most tax-efficient manner.** Certain assets in your estate may have different tax consequences for loved ones than for charities. For example, if you own U.S. savings bonds with untaxed appreciation, family members will owe income tax when the bonds are redeemed. If you name the Memorial Fund to receive the bonds, no income tax will be owed.
- **Remember friends and charities you’ve supported during your lifetime.** The state’s will includes only family members, some of whom you might not even know. Your own will can remember the important people and charities in your life with a thoughtful gift through your estate.

More information

Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like to request more information on any of the topics mentioned in the newsletter.

We are here if you would like to discuss your intentions to include the Memorial Fund in any of your estate plans.



Brighton Brooksby
Assistant Director of Planned and Individual Gifts



NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIAL FUND

MEMORIAL | MUSEUM | OFFICER SAFETY & WELLNESS

National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund

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